

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 747

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2431

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRAN, MEX

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: U.S.-MEXICO AIR TRANSPORT NEGOTIATIONS

FROM SILBERSTEIN FOR MEADOWS EB/OA

1. URGENTLY NEED DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS ON
FOLLOWING:

CAB MEMBERS OF DELEGATION PROPOSE THAT IN RESPONDING TO MEXDEL
AND IN STATING REQUEST FOR NEW US ROUTES, DELEGATION SHOULD
REQUEST, INTER ALIA,

A) ADD SAN FRANCISCO, MAZATLAN, GUADALAJARA AND MANZANILLO TO
EXISTING US ROUTE E.

B) COMBINE EXISTING US ROUTES A, B AND P AND ADD ZIHUATANEJO,
MANZANILLO TO RESULTING ROUTE, WITH INCLUSION OF NEW MANDATORY
STOP REQUIREMENT BETWEEN NEW YORK AND GUADALAJARA AND WASHINGTON
AND GUADALAJARA.

C) COMBINE US ROUTES O AND H; DELETE MONTERREY AND PUERTO
VALLARTA AND ADD MANDATORY STOP BETWEEN NEW YORK AND MEXICO CITY.

2. RE 1A ABOVE, I CONSIDER ADDING MAZATLAN, GUADALAJARA AND
MANZANILLO TO ROUTE E AS INCONSISTENT WITH MY PRESENT INSTRUCTIONS
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FROM DEPARTMENT. THIS IS OF COURSE THE EARLIER PROPOSAL THAT

HUGHES AIR WEST OBJECTED TO. IT IS ALSO A DEPARTURE FROM RECOMMENDED POSITION IN LATEST CAB LETTER TO THE DEPARTMENT. I DO NOT CONSIDER ADDITION OF SAN FRANCISCO IN SAME CATEGORY, SINCE WESTERN NOW SERVES SAN FRANCISCO TO EXISTING POINTS ON ROUTE E, BY THROUGH-PLANE BEHIND LOS ANGELES.

3. RE 1B ABOVE, SHOULD BE NOTED THAT EASTERN CURRENTLY DESIGNATED ON ROUTES A AND B AND I DO NOT SEE ANY PROBLEM. ROUTE P IS UNDESIGNATED. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED FOR EASTERN AND AWARDING IT TO EASTERN WOULD NOT BE DIVERSIONARY FROM ANY OTHER CARRIER'S EXISTING RIGHTS AND SO FAR AS I KNOW NO CARRIER HAS EVER REQUESTED THESE RIGHTS FROM THE BOARD, NOR HAS ANY CARRIER EXPRESSED INTEREST IN IT HERE. ALSO COMBINING A, B, & P FOR EASTERN - AND ADDING NEW POINTS MENTIONED - WOULD BE, IN MY VIEW AN IMAGINATIVE WAY TO BALANCE OUT FOR EASTERN ANY POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF COMBINING O AND H, SEE (4) BELOW.

4. RE 1C ABOVE PAN AM NOW DESIGNATED ON ROUTE H. ROUTE O IS UNDESIGNATED, BUT OBVIOUSLY, AS INTERCONTINENTAL ROUTE, WAS CONSTRUCTED FOR PAN AM. EASTERN HAS CONSISTENTLY OBJECTED TO OUR DOING THIS, COMPLAINING OF NEW YORK - MEXICO CITY COMPETITION ENTAILED. I DO NOT CONSIDER THIS IN SAME CLASS AS LOS ANGELES - MEXICO WEST COAST POINTS ISSUE, SINCE COMBINING O AND H WOULD NOT BE DENYING EASTERN OPPORTUNITY TO BID FOR RIGHTS AS HUGHES AIR WEST HAS COMPLAINED. RATHER WOULD SIMPLY BE ADDING NEW COMPETITION, WHICH WOULD BE BALANCED BY NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR EASTERN ENTAILED IN COMBINING A, B AND P.

5. CAB MEMBERS HAVE ARGUED THAT IF WE CANNOT ADD MEXICAN POINTS TO WESTERN'S ROUTE E, THEN WOULD BE INCONSISTENT TO ADD MEXICO CITY TO HUGHES AIR WEST'S ROUTE M WHICH IS ALSO PART OF THE PROPOSED POSITION SINCE WESTERN HAS COMPLAINED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL COMPETITION TO WESTERN'S LOS ANGELES TO MEXICO CITY SERVICE ENTAILED. I HAVE ARGUED THAT POTENTIAL COMPETITION IS MINIMAL IN VIEW OF MULTI-STOP (BEHIND ARIZONA) ASPECTS AND, IN ANY CASE, WESTERN NOT BEING DENIED OPPORTUNITY TO BID, SINCE IT ALREADY HAS LOS ANGELES - MEXICO CITY RIGHTS.

6. MY PERSONAL VIEW IS THAT PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN 1B
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AND 1C ABOVE ARE DESIRABLE AND WOULD NOT BE INCONSISTENT WITH DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, ALTHOUGH I WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION. I FEEL THE SAME ABOUT SIMPLY ADDING SAN FRANCISCO TO ROUTE E. HOWEVER, I CONSIDER THAT ADDING THE NEW PROPOSED MEXICAN POINTS TO ROUTE E WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH MY EXISTING INSTRUCTIONS, AND ON THIS I URGENTLY REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S ANSWER, HOPEFULLY BY NIACT IMMEDIATE CABLE.
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